

Appln No. 09/672,287
Amdt date May 17, 2004
Reply to Office action of February 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising the steps of:

adding a fatty acid metal salt to a carbonaceous material while the fatty acid metal salt and the carbonaceous material are agglomerated to produce an agglomerated precursor, wherein the fatty acid metal salt includes one or more metals selected from the group consisting of Sn, Ag, Fe, Pd, Pb, Al, Si, In, Ni, Co, Zn and Cd; and

heat-treating the agglomerated precursor to convert the fatty acid metal salt into [[the]] an amorphous metal compound and to produce a particle agglomerated product.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the fatty acid metal salt is used in the form of an aqueous solution.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the carbonaceous material has an average diameter of 3 to 20 μm and the particle-agglomerated product has an average diameter of 6 to 40 μm .

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the fatty acid metal salt is tin acetate.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the metal compound includes one or both of SnO_2 or SnO .

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15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the heat-treating is performed at 250 to 800 °C.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the amorphous metal compound is included in an amount of 30 wt% or less based on the total weight of the negative active material.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the amorphous metal compound is included in an amount ranging from 5 to 20 wt% based on the total weight of the negative active material.

19.-20. (Canceled)